IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	:	Maung W. Han	Group Art Unit 3663
Serial No.	:	10/774,087	
Filed	:	February 6, 2004	
For	:	DISPLAY METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR NAVIGATION SYSTEM	
Examiner	:	Ronnie M. Mancho	

ARGUMENTS FOR PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Hon. Commissioner
of Patents and Trademarks
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the office action mailed July 27, 2007, the applicant requests review of the legal and factual basis of the final rejection in the above-identified patent application. This review being requested because of clear errors in the examiner's rejections and the examiner's omission of essential elements need for a prima facie rejection. This request is accompanied by a Notice of Appeal submitted concurrently herewith.

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending where Claims 1 and 11 are independent, where the most recent listing of claims is provided in the applicant's response dated April 26, 2007. In the final office action, the examiner rejected all of the claims on the basis of

substantially the identical rejections as in the previous office actions dated October 7, 2005, April 4, 2006, and December 29, 2006. Namely, in the final office action, the examiner rejected Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yokota et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,640,185) by repeating the same reasoning as that in all of the prior office actions.

As stated in the specification, the gist of the present invention is to avoid showing a "blank scroll" screen of a navigation system when scrolling a map image. When a user scrolls a map image where there is a desert, lake, or a large field with no roads in the scroll direction, the screen of the navigation system shows no visible object (blank). Within the context of the instant case, this situation is called a "blank scroll". Since the blank scroll does not provide any visible object, the user will be confused or otherwise uncomfortable because the user cannot tell whether the scroll direction or scroll speed is appropriate or how long such a blank screen continues. Therefore, an object of the present invention to provide a navigation system which is capable of avoiding a blank scroll screen when the display screen is scrolled (page 5, lines 5-8).

As clearly defined in Claims 1 and 11, to avoid the blank scroll, the navigation system (1) detects the condition in which blank scroll will arise when the screen is scrolled, (2) reads the map data ahead in the scroll direction to find any visible object when the blank scroll condition is detected, (3) evaluates the

shape point that defines a shape of the visible object to determine whether any part of the visible object should come within a display range of the screen when the screen is further scrolled in the scroll direction, and (4) immediately displays the location which shows the visible object without showing a blank screen when any part of the visible object should come within the display range.

In other words, the navigation system checks whether the "blank scroll" will arise, and if so, jumps to a particular location in the scroll direction where there is any visible object to show the map image of the particular location. The "blank scroll" is defined in Claims 1 and 11 as "a situation of the screen in which the screen will not show any visible object thereon when the screen is scrolled in the specified direction". Thus, the navigation system is able to avoid showing the blank scroll.

Notwithstanding this straight forward and intuitive features of the present invention, the final office action dated July 27, 2007 repeats the previous irrational remarks with no substantive changes in the explanation of the rejection. The examiner failed to show any prima facie evidence that supports the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). The cited Yokota reference does not show any operation or structure to avoid showing the blank scroll.

For example, with respect to the feature (1) noted above to detect the condition in which blank scroll will arise, the examiner stated that the cited Yokota discloses the step of detecting a condition in which blank scroll will arise. The examiner points

the locations in the cited Yokota reference such as fig. 1A, 1B, fig. 4, fig. 19, and background section of the instant application, however, these figures have no relationship with the blank scroll let alone detection of the blank scroll condition. The background section of the instant application shows the situation where the blank scroll arises in a general sense, but does not show any operation or structure of the navigation system to detect the condition of the blank scroll.

With respect to the feature (2) where the navigation system reads the map data ahead in the scroll direction to find any visible object when the blank scroll condition is detected, the examiner points the locations in the cited Yokota reference such as col. 4, lines 1-28, col. 5, lines 2-30, etc. However, the descriptions in the cited Yokota reference at the specified locations do not provide any such an operation to find the visible object in the map data ahead when the blank scroll condition is detected. With respect to the feature (3) where the navigation system evaluates the shape point that defines a shape of the visible object to determine whether any part of the visible object should come within a display range of the screen, the examiner points the locations in the cited Yokota reference such as col. 4, lines 1-28, col. 5, lines 2-30, etc. However, the descriptions in the cited Yokota reference at the specified locations do not provide any such an operation to evaluate the shape points of the visible object for determining the display range.

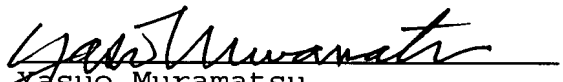
With respect to the feature (4) where the navigation system immediately displays the location which shows the visible object when any part of the visible object should come within the display range, the examiner points the descriptions in the background section of the instant application at pages 3 and 4. This section describes the situation where the blank scroll arises as a general background knowledge, which has no relationship with the operation where the screen jumps to the location where the visible object resides to avoid the blank scroll.

In short, the examiner fails to show the basis of rejection in a rational manner. In view of the arguments presented in the responses dated January 9, 2006, July 18, 2006, April 26, 2007 and the supplemental arguments presented herein, the applicant submits that the final office action dated July 27, 2007 fails to set forth prima facie rejections for the claims of the present invention. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully request a finding that the application is allowed on the existing claims.

Respectfully submitted,

MURAMATSU & ASSOCIATES

Dated: 10/26/07

By: 

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